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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/549,914

09/20/2005

Yasumi Yugari

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

FRAZIER, BARBARA S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1611

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/549,914	Applicant(s) YUGARI ET AL.	
	Examiner BARBARA FRAZIER	Art Unit 1611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/20/05, 4/13/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-10 are examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase "indigestible polysaccharides as exploited by intestinal bacteria in terms of dried foodstuff" is unclear; are the intestinal bacteria related to the "dried foodstuff", or to the "indigestible polysaccharides"? Additionally, the meaning of the phrase "as exploited by" is unclear, and the specification does not provide a clear meaning for this term.

For purposes of examination, the claim shall be interpreted to mean that the food contains more than 5% by weight of water-soluble indigestible polysaccharides relative to the total amount of dried foodstuff, and the indigestible polysaccharides can be decomposed by intestinal bacteria.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakashima et al., US Patent 5,126,143.

The claimed invention is drawn to a food according to claim 1:

~~1. (Currently Amended) Pathological improvement food for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds, which contains, as basic ingredients, more than 5% by weight of water-soluble indigestible polysaccharides as exploited by intestinal bacteria in terms of dried foodstuff and has restricted addition of protein components.~~

Nakashima et al. disclose a bowel-movement-improving food containing 10-50% by weight of dietary fibers based upon the whole product (see claim 1). The amount of protein in the food is less than 8%; amounts of 6% and 5.4% casein are exemplified (see, for example, Examples 1 and 4). The dietary fibers are decomposed by intestinal microorganisms (see Examples 1, 4 and 5). The foods improve constipation (col. 3, lines 14-20), and thereby provide a "pathological improvement". Therefore, the invention of Nakashima et al. anticipates the claimed invention.

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The phrase “for lowering blood concentration of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing compounds” describes an intended use for the food, and is not given patentable weight.

Regarding claim 2, Nakashima et al. disclose foods having more than 5% indigestible polysaccharides - see Example 1, which has 25% dietary fibers (18 parts polydextrose and 6.9 parts pectin, relative to 100.3 total parts). Protein amounts of less than 8% protein are also exemplified (see Example 1, which has 6% casein – 6 parts sodium casein, relative to 100.3 total parts).

Regarding claim 3, Nakashima et al. disclose that dietary fibers which may be used are polydextrose and pectin (see col. 3, lines 20-22 and claim 1).

Regarding claim 4, Nakashima et al. disclose that the food contains a mixture of polydextrose and pectin, wherein said mixture is comprised of 1/2 to 3/4 polydextrose and 1/2 to 1/4 pectin. This reads on Applicant's ratio of 0.05 to 100 parts by weight of pectine to 100 parts of polydextrose.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, Nakashima et al. disclose that the foods may contain vitamins (col. 4, lines 32-38).

Regarding claims 7-10, Nakashima et al. disclose that the food may be in the form of the wafer; the term “wafer” reads on a reasonable interpretation of either “biscuit”, “cookie” or “bread”.

Examiner's Remarks

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6. Examiner suggests amending the abstract so that it is limited to a single paragraph within the range of 50 to 150 words, not exceeding 15 lines of text. See MPEP § 608.01(b), subsection C.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BARBARA FRAZIER whose telephone number is (571)270-3496. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571)272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BSF

/Sharmila Gollamudi Landau/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1611